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Group Art Unit: 3744

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 were in the application as last examined. By this amendment, claims 2, 3, 6-9, and 24 have been amended. Claims 1, 5 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added to the application by these amendments. Further consideration and examination are respectfully requested.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 14, 24, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,449,958 to Foye in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,285,455 to Pewitt. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have cancelled claim 1 without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7, which previously depended from claim 1, are amended to depend from claim 23 which has been allowed. Therefore claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 are patentable for the same reasons that claim 23 is patentable. Claim 4 depends from claim 2, and is therefore also patentable for the same reasons that claim 2 is patentable. Also, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 8 has also been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13, previously determined to be allowable. Claim 24 has been amended similarly to claim 8.

Applicants believe that claims 8 and 24 are now patentable in light of the amendments made here. Therefore claims 9 - 11 and 14, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 8, are also patentable for the same reasons that claim 8 is patentable. Similarly, claim 28 depends from claim 24 and is believed patentable for the same reasons claim 24 is patentable.

The rejections are considered moot in view of the amendments made, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 7, 12, 13, and 25-27 stand objected to as being allowable, but dependant from a rejected base claim. Claims 5 and 13 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 7,

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12 and 25-27 are now believed patentable as they depend from independent claims which are patentable.

Claims allowed

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's determination of the allowance of claims 15-23.

Conclusion

It is believed that the applicants have now placed all of the claims in an allowable form and respectfully request a notice of allowability. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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